

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 02989 231258Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EUR-12 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02  
INR-10 INRE-00 L-03 HA-05 SSO-00 PA-01 /072 W  
-----129785 231311Z /42

O R 231245Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3447  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
USLO RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02989

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SA  
SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF SAUDI PRINCESS

REF: STATE 44536

WE WERE PREDICTABLY UNABLE TO OBTAIN TEXT OF THE SAUDI  
STATEMENT FROM THE SAUDI EMBASSY ON SHORT NOTICE. IN  
VIEW OF IMMEDIATE TIMING WE TURNED TO FCO, WHICH  
PROVIDED US WITH A TEXT. FCO NOTES IT WAS ISSUED, NOT  
DIRECTLY BY SAUDI EMBASSY, BUT BY BRITISH PUBLIC RELA-  
TIONS FIRM WITH WHICH SAUDI EMBASSY HAS A CONTRACT, THE  
E.D. O'BRIEN ORGANIZATION.

BEGIN TEXT:

ON THURSDAY 26 JANUARY THE BBC BROADCAST A NEWS ITEM  
WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED BY THE BRITISH PRESS. IT  
HAD ALSO BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY A SPOKESMAN OF  
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THE NEWS ITEM ALLEGED  
THAT A SAUDI PRINCESS AND A SAUDI CITIZEN WHO MARRIED  
WERE EXECUTED BECAUSE THE MAN DID NOT BELONG TO  
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THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY.

THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT DEEPLY REGRETS THAT  
SUCH UNFOUNDED NEWS WAS TRANSMITTED OFFICIALLY IN  
A BROADCAST BY THE BBC WHICH ALSO CARRIED A BRITISH  
GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENT. THE SAUDI ARABIAN  
GOVERNMENT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL

APOLOGY FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS COMMENTS  
ON THIS PARTICULAR NEWS ITEM. TO CLARIFY THE ISSUE: -  
THE SENTENCE CARRIED OUT WAS PASSED BY AN ISLAMIC  
COURT AS PUNISHMENT FOR THE ADULTEROUS ACTS COMMITTED

BY THE TWO ACCUSED PERSONS. IT IS A CRIME FOR WHICH  
THE PUNISHMENT, ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC LAW (SHARIA),  
IS DEATH. THE COUPLE WERE NOT MARRIED AS STATED IN  
THE NEWS STORY. THE MARRIAGE OF A PRINCESS WITH A  
MAN UNRELATED TO THE ROYAL FAMILY IS NOT CONSIDERED  
A CRIME LET ALONE ONE THAT SHOULD BE PUNISHED BY  
EXECUTION. THERE ARE MANY PRINCES AND PRINCESSES  
MARRIED TO COMMONERS AND THIS IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT  
IN THE KINGDOM.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXECUTIONS, PRINCESS, PRESS RELEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LONDON02989  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780084-0106  
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**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8d619ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 44536  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3507976  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXECUTION OF SAUDI PRINCESS  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, SA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8d619ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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